

The Historic Cambridge Collaborative
presents

CAMBRIDGE DISCOVERY WALKS



Saturday, July 3rd, 2004

EXPLORE THE CITY!

FREE! RAIN OR SHINE!



Tours begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day.

More tour questions?
Call the Commission at 617.349.4683

**Wear comfortable shoes
and
bring your own water!**

HISTORIC CAMBRIDGE COLLABORATIVE

Cambridge Arts Council
Cambridge Historical Commission
Cambridge Historical Society
Cambridge Office for Tourism
Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery
Longfellow National Historic Site

Founded in 1998, the Collaborative is an informal group of non-profit institutions presenting public programs that explore and celebrate Cambridge history.

Walks are listed by starting times.

1) 9:00–10:00 a.m.

A Tyranny of its Own: Tories and their Slaves

“Colonel Henry Vassall was a very wicked man. It was a common remark that he was the devil . . .” observed Darby Vassall, one of the last surviving slaves to have been owned by a wealthy Loyalist in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Paul Blandford tells the story of the slaves and their Tory Row masters, including changing attitudes about slavery, from the days prior to the American Revolution to 1861, the year of Darby Vassall’s death. Although Cambridge, Massachusetts, and the colonies rebelled against the injustices of the English crown and sought independence, the Massachusetts legislature denied African Americans their own freedom when they petitioned the General Court in 1777. The walk begins at the Vassall-Craigie-Longfellow house and ends at Christ Church, where Darby’s funeral took place exactly one hundred years from the day that Henry Vassell himself dedicated the church.

Guide: Paul Blandford, National Park Service

Meet on the front lawn of the Longfellow House, 105 Brattle Street

More information: 617.876.4491

2) 9:00–10:15 a.m.

From Horse Races to Immigrant Faces: The Transformation of the Race Course Subdivision of North Cambridge

Did you know there once was a popular horse racetrack and hotel on Cedar Street in North Cambridge? Learn about the nineteenth century pastime of trotting races, the famous trainer Hiram Woodruff, and his more-famous horse. Can you guess her name? (She is remembered in a popular song.) After the track closed in 1855, the racecourse was subdivided into house lots and the new neighborhood became home to many Irish and French Canadian immigrants. We will walk along the perimeter of the racecourse, then explore the quiet interior streets and nineteenth century houses, including examples of the North Cambridge workers’ cottage, a vernacular house form that was once very common in the neighborhood.

Guide: Sarah Burks, Cambridge Historical Commission

Meet at Barry’s Corner, intersection of Rindge Avenue and Cedar Street

More information: sburks@cambridgema.gov

3) 9:00–10:00 a.m.

A Children’s Walking Tour of Central Square

During this hands-on walking tour, children and their families will explore the architecture of Central Square. Participants will observe, touch, draw, and do texture rubbings as they search for architectural elements and learn a new vocabulary to describe what they see. Discover the history and visual diversity that has made Central Square such a vibrant place for over 150 years. *Materials provided.*

Appropriate for children 7 and up accompanied by an adult.

Guide: Polly Carpenter, Architect; Learning by Design in Massachusetts, a youth education program of the Boston Society of Architects

Meet at Cambridge City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, in front of the main doors

More information: pollycarp@ email.com

4) 9:30–10:30 a.m.

Tales of Newtowne

Discover remnants of the village of Newtowne. Hear tales of historic Cambridge, including: the trial of Anne Hutchinson; the decisions of Revolutionary War traitors Benjamin Church and William Brattle; the fury of the Mandamus Council mob; and the fate of the runaway slaves Shadrach Menckin and Anthony Burns. Stories and events will be illuminated through the words of the Fireside Poets. The tour will include the Brattle Square area and Brattle Street to the Longfellow House and the home of Richard Henry Dana.

Guide: To be announced. Tour written by Joan Sawyer, SawyerMac Productions

Meet at Market Square, JFK and Mount Auburn Streets, in front of Peet's Coffee

More information: SawyerMac@aol.com

5) 9:30–11:30 a.m.

Cambridgeport: The Way it used to be

Discover the neighborhood once known as the Lower Port. Crowded, industrialized, and densely populated, the area was a lively mix of African American and immigrant families. Led by a long-time Cambridge resident, this leisurely walk explores the neighborhood from Massachusetts Avenue to Windsor Street, Washington to Harvard, and Portland to Broadway and looks at sites ranging from the Boardman School (built in 1866, it is the oldest schoolhouse in the area), the site of the former Cambridge Neighborhood House (founded in 1878 by Pauline Agassiz Shaw), and the Lever Brothers Soap Factory.

Guide: Kathleen Walcott, The Ethnic Foundation

Meet at the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Windsor Street, opposite the former Necco Candy Co.

6) 10:00–11:00 a.m.

"Home-keeping Hearts are Happiest"—The Brattle Street Homes of the Longfellow Family

"Stay, stay at home, my heart, and rest; Home-keeping hearts are happiest," begins Henry W. Longfellow's poem, *Song*. The walk explores six Brattle Street houses that were called home by Longfellow and other family members, including his sister, children, and grandchildren. Family stories will be intertwined with Longfellow's poetry. (*Please note: the tour does not enter the houses.*)

Guide: Nancy Jones, Longfellow National Historic Site

Meet on the front lawn at the Longfellow House, 105 Brattle Street

More information: 617.876.4491

7) 10:30, 11:30 a.m., 1:00, 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 p.m.

Tours of the Longfellow National Historic Site

Step into America's past on a tour of the Longfellow house. For almost half a century (1837–1882) this was the home of the renowned poet, scholar, and educator, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and a favorite gathering place for prominent philosophers and artists, including Nathaniel Hawthorne, Julia Ward Howe, James Russell Lowell, and

Ralph Waldo Emerson. General George Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the newly-formed Continental Army, used the house as his headquarters in the winter of 1775-1776. He, too, was entertained many notable visitors, including Benjamin Franklin and Benedict Arnold. Readings from poems, letters, and diaries will enliven the tours.

Led by National Park Service Rangers

At Longfellow National Historic Site, 105 Brattle Street

More information: 617.876.4491

Admission fee

8) 11:00 a.m. to Noon

The Literary Spirit: Scholars and Writers in Cambridge

Stroll through one of Cambridge's most beautiful neighborhoods and meet the spirits of important cultural and literary individuals, including Richard Henry Dana (*Two Years Before the Mast*) and William Dean Howells (*The Rise of Silas Lapham*).

Guide: Kit Rawlins, Cambridge Historical Commission

Meet on the front lawn of the Longfellow House, 105 Brattle Street

More information: 617.349.4685 or krawlins@cambridgema.gov

9) 11:00 a.m. to Noon – Sorry, This Tour is Canceled

A View with a Room: Looking into Fresh Pond's Past

Guides: Lydia Vagts and Tim Sawyer, Friends of Fresh Pond

Meet at Huron Avenue Gatehouse, on Huron Avenue opposite Park Avenue

For reservations or more information: 617.349.4793

10) 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Women of Central Square

The tour will focus on women's contributions to Cambridge. Learn about the lives and struggles of women politicians and feminists, visit the country's oldest Women's Center, and listen to the stories of Charlotte Hawkins Brown, Maria Baldwin, and other important women and women's institutions.

Guide: Mary Leno, Cambridge Women's Commission

Meet on the sidewalk in front of City Hall

More information: 617.349.4697

11) 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

"Have you milked the cow today?"—18th century Activities for Children

Have you milked the cow? Chopped the wood? Gathered the eggs? With Mistress Elizabeth, you'll learn to write your name with a quill pen, card and spin wool, sing a song and do a country dance—THAT will explain why your chores aren't done! Materials will be provided. **Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

Guide: Mistress Elizabeth (Donna LaRue),

All activities take place on the sidewalk in front of First Parish Church, corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Church Street

More information: 781.306.0724 or ihsdlrue@bu.edu

12) Noon-1:00 p.m.

“William, Have You no Shame?--Judith Sargent Murray’s Nephew at Harvard, 1814

In the early 1800s, renowned essayist and women’s rights advocate Judith Sargent Murray (1751-1820) oversaw the Harvard education of six nephews and sons of family friends from her home in Boston. Not all of them behaved well. Using excerpts from Murray’s unpublished letters, Ms. Smith will take a light-hearted look at some of the antics, exploits, and accomplishments of the young men under Murray’s care.

Guide: Bonnie Hurd Smith, Judith Sargent Murray Society

Meet at Massachusetts Hall, Harvard Yard, inside Johnston Gate opposite First Church

More information: www.hurdsmith.com/judith

13) Noon-1:30 p.m.

Tip O’Neill’s North Cambridge

Explore the history and architecture of this North Cambridge neighborhood, from the first day of the American Revolution through the 20th century. The tour will discuss the neighborhood's agricultural and early industrial origins and its development as a streetcar suburb. Massachusetts Avenue and adjacent side streets will be featured, including several sites associated with the late Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Guide: Charlie Bahne, Cambridge historian

Meet at St. James’s Church, corner Mass. Ave. and Beech Street

More information: 617.354.0539

14) 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Side by Side: A Cambridgeport Ramble

Victorian Cambridgeport embraced two identities. Its location defined it as a commercial suburb of Boston. But to residents, it was a proud community. In its double houses lived established Yankees, newcomers, skilled workers, and independent thinkers. Side by side, they built a neighborhood. Come hear their stories.

Guide: Dee Morris, social historian

Meet at Margaret Fuller House, 71 Cherry Street

More information: 781.391.1696

15) 1:00-2:00 p.m.

The Old Cambridge Burying Ground: Scholars, Soldiers & Stones

The tour will look at the work of early colonial carvers; discuss the stones and the information they tell about important figures in the Cambridge community; and study how the town’s public and private educational and governmental institutions functioned in the years just prior to the American Revolution.

The tour will be led by Mistress Elizabeth, an 18th century living history character from Charlestown-Beyond-the-Neck, who is the widow of Captain Elias de la Rue and a

sometime schoolteacher. Mistress Elizabeth lives in the summer of the year 1773, just six months before the Boston Tea Party and three years before events at Lexington and Concord.

Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by a responsible adult. No touching or rubbing of stones is permitted in the grounds; photography and drawing are fine! Handouts included.

Guide: Mistress Elizabeth (Donna La Rue, church historian)

Meet at the Old Burying Ground at the side gate near the front entrance to Christ Church, Zero Garden Street

More information: 781.306.0724 or ihsdlrue@bu.edu

16) 1:00–2:00 p.m.

A History of West Cambridge near Fresh Pond

In the early years of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the area now known as West Cambridge was part of the farming community of Watertown. As West Cambridge from 1754, it has an interesting and varied history of farms and country estates, market greenhouses, a cemetery, and suburban housing development.

Guide: Karen Falb, landscape historian

Meet at 245 Brattle Street

More information: 617.864.4291

17) 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Guided Tour of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House

Built ca. 1685, the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House is one of the oldest structures in Cambridge. It has been modified and enlarged many times over the last three hundred years, reflecting changing architectural styles and tastes and is now home to the Cambridge Historical Society.

Guide: Lewis Bushnell, Associate Director, Cambridge Historical Society

Meet at Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, Cambridge Historical Society, 159 Brattle Street

More information: 617.547.4252 or lbushnell@cambridgehistory.org

18) 2:00-3:15 p.m.

Knowing the Neighborhood: Public Art in Central Square

Discover the stories and symbolism behind some Cambridge's liveliest works of public art. Examine Daniel Galvez's mural, *Crossroads*—a "Central Square family album" from 1986; discover the ceramic pieces that ornament the Central Square Library; and read Ritsuko Taho's *Multicultural Manifestoes*, which are filled with "dream statements" of Cantabrigians of all ages and background. The tour will end with a stroll down Franklin Street to one of Cambridge's newest and most charming parks.

Guide: Barbara Martin, Cambridge Public Art Commission

Meet in front of the Central Square CVS, by the Central Square T (subway) stop

More information: bmartin@mfa.org

19) 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Memorable Cantabrigians at Cambridge and Mount Auburn Cemeteries

Tour these neighboring cemeteries and remember the lives of some who called Cambridge home. Architect Henry Van Brunt, author and editor William Dean Howells, and the remarkable James family are all buried at Cambridge Cemetery on the scenic high ground above the Charles River. Authors Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Oliver Wendell Holmes, and James Russell Lowell are buried with their families at Mount Auburn. The tour is sponsored by the Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Guide: Janet Heywood, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Vice President of Interpretive Programs

Meet at Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street

More information: 617.607.1981 or friends at mountauburn.org

20) 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Four Centuries of Stylish Houses

The area between Brattle Street and Huron Avenue contains the finest collection of high-style domestic architecture in the city. Traversing Brattle, Fayerweather, Reservoir, Highland, and Appleton streets, Karen Davis will discuss the many architectural styles represented and describe their character-defining traits.

Guide: Karen Davis, Executive Director, Cambridge Historical Society

Meet at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House, 159 Brattle Street

More information: 617.547.4252 or camhistory@aol.com

21) 2:00-4:00 p.m.

In the Footsteps of William Dean Howells: A Walk through Charlesbridge

In 1866, William Dean Howells arrived in Boston to become the editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*. Mr. and Mrs. Howells set up housekeeping in a house found for them by Charles Eliot Norton, his mentor, in a rapidly suburbanizing part of Cambridge that was not far from Norton's estate at Shady Hill. Howells described their experiences in a series of articles in which he disguised Cambridge as "Charlesbridge" and Sacramento Street as "Benicia." (The articles were published together in 1875 as *Suburban Sketches*.) The tour will meet at the Howells's house at 41 Sacramento Street and follow his route to "Dublin"—the Sherman Street neighborhood—as described in "A Pedestrian Tour," first published in *The Atlantic* in November 1869.

Guide: Charles Sullivan, Cambridge Historical Commission

Meet at W. D. Howell's house, 41 Sacramento Street

More information: 617.349.4684 or csullivan@cambridgema.gov

22) 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Harvard Square's Colonial Churches: Agents of Change

Diversity of religious and political affiliations have been issues in Cambridge since Harvard's first president became a Baptist and was asked to resign. We will visit historic church sites; discuss how issues between Cambridge and Boston clergy foreshadowed and influenced events leading up to the American War for Independence; and discover how lay and clergy alike were schooled to their professions and added to the town's already complex texture.

We will sing a tune from the Bay Psalm Book at the site where it was published and join in a rousing political song or two at the Blue Anchor Tavern site (there having been varieties of religious experience even then . . .). Handouts included.

The tour will be led by Mistress Elizabeth, an 18th century living history character from Charlestown-Beyond-the-Neck, who is the widow of Captain Elias de la Rue and a sometime schoolteacher. Mistress Elizabeth lives in the summer of the year 1773, just six months before the Boston Tea Party and three years before events at Lexington and Concord.

Guide: Mistress Elizabeth (Donna La Rue, church historian)

Meet at Out Of Town News/Cambridge Discovery Kiosk

More information: 781.306.0724 or ihsdlrue@bu.edu

23) 3:00–4:30 p.m.

Art and Architecture of MIT

The MIT campus hosts the work of several remarkable 20th century architects—and is undergoing an unprecedented building program that will transform the built environment. The tour begins on the steps of 77 Massachusetts Avenue with an overview of MIT's campus. We will head across the street to view the work Eero Saarinen, Eduardo Catalano, and Alvar Aalto.

From post-war modernism, we will move back in time to consider MIT's beginnings in the 1860s in Boston's Back Bay and the big move to Cambridge in 1916. We will discuss the Beaux Art design of William Welles Bosworth, which was inspired by Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia. Continuing along Memorial Drive, we will explore the extraordinary contributions I. M. Pei made throughout his career to MIT's architecture. Next, we will look at some of the school's newest additions, including the State Center designed by Frank O. Gehry.

Guide: Jennifer Hance, local historian and MIT alum

Meet on steps in front of 77 Mass. Ave.

More information: 617.492.646 or jhance@alum.mit.edu